REMARKS

Claims 1-11, as amended, remain herein.

Applicants note and appreciate that claim 4 has been allowed, and claims 7-9 are said to be allowable if amended to independent form including all limitations of the base and intervening claims.

Claims 1, 2, and 3 are amended to recite "a voltage holding means for holding a voltage value at of an input chroma signal within a period during which the input chroma signal is null" and "reducing variations in the DC level when switching between the input chroma signal and an on-screen display signal". Claim 9 is amended to recite, inter alia "a storage means for storing a voltage value of the input chroma signal within the period during which the input chroma signal is null". Claims 7, 8, 10, and 11, are amended to recite, inter alia, "the input chroma signal is null".

1.   Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Rumreich, U.S. Patent 5,841,488.

Rumreich discloses a circuit for clamping two video inputs, a "selected video signal" and an "unselected signal" (col. 2, lines 23-34). The Office Action characterizes selected signals as "non-null signals" and unselected signals as "null signals." But that characterization is not supported by the disclosure of Rumreich.

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Rumreich discloses that the clamping circuit will clamp video signals that are selected for Picture-in-Picture processing. Rumreich also discloses that the clamping circuit will clamp video signals that are unselected for Picture-in-Picture processing. (See col. 3, lines 1-8 and col. 4, lines 6-13). In short, whether or not a signal is Picture-in-Picture processed defines whether a signal is "selected," or "unselected." Rumreich is silent as to whether either of the selected or unselected signals ever has a null value. Further, Rumreich does not disclose the advantage "holding a voltage value of an input chroma signal within a period during which the input chroma signal is null" as claimed by the applicants.

Claims 1, 2, and 3, also recite "reducing variations in the DC level when switching between the input chroma signal and an on-screen display signal."

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, Rumreich discloses that a DC level of the input signal does not become equal to a DC level of output signal, because input signals are always coupled by respective capacitors (C1, C2) and are clamped to DC reference levels as shown in Fig. 1. Therefore, the Rumreich system cannot reduce variations in the DC level at a time when the input chroma signal and the OSD chroma signal are switched, as presently claimed by the applicants.

Accordingly, the applicants' invention according to amended claims 1-3 differs Rumreich in construction and effect, and amended claims 1-3 are not anticipated by Rumreich. Thus,

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claims 5 and 9-11, which are dependent on claim 3, and claim 6, which is dependant on claim 5, are also not anticipated by Rumreich.

For all of the forgoing reasons, Rumreich does <u>not</u> disclose all elements of applicants' claimed invention and therefore is not a proper basis for a §102(b) rejection thereof. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in Rumreich which would have suggested applicants' claimed invention. Thus reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection, and allowance of all claims 1-11 are respectfully requested.

All claims 1-11 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the prior Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-11 is respectfully requested.

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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

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